

**Attachment B: Proposed additions to the chapter on Definitions in  
the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases***

## **DEFINITIONS**

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The *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* (companion volume to this *Manual*) contains a list of definitions that may be consulted for the meaning of terms used in this *Manual*. Some terms that are not used in the *Code* but that appear in the *Manual*, are defined below:

Epidemiological unit	A group of animals that share approximately the same risk of exposure to a disease agent with a defined location. This may be because they share a common aquatic environment (e.g. fish in a pond, caged fish in a lake), or because management practices make it likely that a disease agent in one group of animals would quickly spread to other animals (e.g. all the ponds on a farm, all the ponds in a village system).
Test	<p>A procedure used to classify a <i>unit</i> as either positive or negative with respect to an infection or disease. Tests may be classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confirmatory diagnostic, when applied to clinically diseased individuals;</li><li>• confirmatory screening, when applied to apparently healthy individuals; or</li><li>• confirmatory, when applied to confirm the result of a previous test.</li></ul>
Test system	A combination of multiple <i>tests</i> and rules of interpretation which are used for the same purpose as a <i>test</i> .
Probability sampling	A sampling strategy in which every <i>unit</i> has a known non-zero probability of inclusion in the sample.
Targeted surveillance	<i>Surveillance</i> targeted at a specific disease or infection.
Early detection system	<p>A system for the timely detection and identification of the incursion or emergence of infection or disease in a country, zone or aquaculture establishment. An early detection system must be under the control of the Competent Authorities and must include the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confirmatory representative coverage of target animal <i>populations</i> by field services;</li><li>• confirmatory ability to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting;</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirmatory access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases;</li> <li>• confirmatory a training programme for veterinarians or fish health specialists for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence.</li> </ul>
Prescribed biosecurity conditions	<p>A set of conditions applying to a particular disease or infection, and a particular zone or country, required to ensure adequate biosecurity, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirmatory the disease is legally notifiable;</li> <li>• confirmatory an <i>early detection system</i> is in place;</li> <li>• confirmatory no vaccination against the disease is carried out;</li> <li>• confirmatory infection is not known to be established in wild <i>populations</i>;</li> <li>• confirmatory import requirements to prevent the introduction of disease or infection into the country or zone, as outlined in the <i>Code</i>.</li> </ul>
Units	Individually identifiable elements. This is a generic concept used to describe, for example, the members of a <i>population</i> , or the elements selected when sampling. In these contexts, examples of units include individual animals, to ponds, nets, cages, farms, villages, districts, etc.
Population	A group of <i>units</i> sharing a common defined characteristic.
Target population	For the purposes of demonstrating freedom from infection, the <i>population</i> of interest, usually made up of all aquatic animals of species susceptible to a specified disease agent in a defined country, zone or aquaculture establishment
Study population	The <i>population</i> from which evidence of freedom from infection is derived. This may be the same as the <i>target population</i> or a subset of it.
Surveillance system	A method of surveillance that generates a source of information on the animal health status of <i>populations</i> .
Confidence	In the context of demonstrating freedom from infection (in which the null hypothesis is that infection is present), the confidence is the probability that a <i>surveillance system</i> or combination of <i>surveillance system</i> would detect the presence of infection if the <i>population</i> were infected. The confidence depends on the design prevalence, or the assumed level of infection in an infected <i>population</i> . Confidence therefore refers to our confidence in the ability of a <i>surveillance system</i> to detect disease, and is equal to the sensitivity of the system. This is distinct from (but may be used to calculate) the probability that a given <i>population</i> is free from infection, based on the results of one or more <i>surveillance systems</i> .